

Message Text

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FOLLOWING SENT STATE OPS CENTER INFO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION
ROOM (FOR JANKA) FROM USINFO WASHDC 10 FEB 75 (102030Z FEB 75):

QUOTE UNCLAS

STATE OPS CENTER FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO DAVID GOMPERT
FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP-I (TAKE THREE OF THREE)

BONN: WEST GERMAN COVERAGE REFLECTED FEELINGS OF ANTICIPATION
AND HEIGHTENED URGENCY AS SECRETARY KISSINGER BEGAN HIS NEW MID-
EAST TRIP. RIGHT-CENTER FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, UNDER THE
HEADING, "KISSINGER FIGHTING FOR HIS PRESTIGE," CARRIED THE
VIEW OF WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT JAN REIFENBERG THAT THE
"DECISIVE" QUESTION NOW WAS WHETHER MR. KISSINGER WOULD SUCCEED
IN CONVINCING ISRAEL OF THE NECESSITY TO ABANDON THE PASSES
AND THE OIL FIELDS IN THE SINAI IN RETURN FOR EGYPTIAN
POLITICAL CONCESSIONS.

INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE MUENCHNER MERKUR HEADED ITS TOP
STORY: "KISSINGER MAKES LAST ATTEMPT IN MIDDLE EAST--EGYPT HOLDS
TO MAXIMUM DEMANDS."

THE KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER RAN A BYLINER'S ASSERTION THAT
"KISSINGER THESE DAYS IS ENTITLED TO COMPASSION. WHAT MUST BE THE
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FEELINGS OF THIS MAN, WHO NOW FOR THE SECOND TIME WITHIN A FEW

WEEKS MUST SEE TO WHAT WILFUL AND DESTRUCTIVE INTERVENTION IN FOREIGN POLICY THE CONGRESS WILL GO?"

TOKYO: JAPANESE MEDIA GAVE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TODAY AND OVER THE WEEKEND TO THE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT. COMMERCIAL NTV ASSERTED TODAY THAT THERE IS GROWING INTEREST IN THE KISSINGER TRIP BECAUSE EGYPT AND SYRIA AGREED TO SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS DURING FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO'S RECENT MIDDLE EAST TOUR.

TODAY'S INDEPENDENT MODERATE MAINICHI WROTE, "SINCE THE U.S. HAS REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO ABANDON THE STEP-BY-STEP PEACE POLICY IF NO CONCRETE AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON THE SINAI NEGOTIATIONS, THE ARAB SIDE EXPECTS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP WILL BRING ABOUT A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

TODAY'S CONSERVATIVE BUSINESS-ORIENTED NIHON KEIZAI RAN ITS BEIRUT CORRESPONDENT'S ASSERTION THAT "THERE IS A MIXTURE OF OPTIMISM AND PESSIMISM AMONG THE ARAB COUNTRIES ON WHETHER SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MEDIATION EFFORTS WILL LEAD TO REALIZATION OF A SECOND WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM THE SINAI."

NEW DELHI: THE INDEPENDENT STATESMAN JUDGED THAT "PRESIDENT SADAT'S INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAVE SUFFERED A SETBACK" AND "MR. GROMYKO HAS DONE NOTHING TO PUT THIS RIGHT...MOSCOW IS AFRAID OF A LOSS OF INFLUENCE IN THE AREA. MR. SADAT KNOWS THIS AND HAS NAMED HIS PRICE. ALTHOUGH SWITCHING FROM A SOVIET TO A WESTERN ORIENTATION MIGHT BE EXPENSIVE ON BOTH A STRATEGIC AND A TACTICAL LEVEL, SADAT IS WILLING TO UNDERGO THIS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE HIS BARGAINING POSITION..."

SEOUL'S INDEPENDENT MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD JOONGANG ILBO STATED, "IT IS PROBLEMATIC WHETHER DR. KISSINGER CAN SOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST IMPASSE ON THIS TRIP; THE FUTURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS STILL LOOKS PRECARIOUS...WE ARE GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS SINCE IT IS AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY ...TO BRING LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS A TASK FACING THE ENTIRE WORLD TODAY."

MOSCOW: A TASS DISPATCH ON THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST CITED "OBSERVERS" IN WASHINGTON AS SEEING THE TOUR AS "ANOTHER ATTEMPT AIMED AT SO-CALLED STEP-BY-STEP SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. BEHIND THIS FORMULA IS THE UNITED STATES' SUPPORT FOR TEL AVIV'S STRIVING TO PROLONG THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS THROUGH 'INTERMEDIATE' STEPS

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AND OTHER KINDS OF HALF-MEASURES."

TASS YESTERDAY REPORTED THAT PRAVDA, IN A REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, REITERATED "THE SOVIET UNION'S INVARIABLE READINESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST...AS DEMONSTRATED...BY FRIENDLY VISITS OF ANDREY GROMYKO...TO SYRIA AND EGYPT." IT SAID THE PAPER REPORTED THAT IN TALKS IN CAIRO AND DAMASCUS "THE SIDES... EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO RESUME AS

SOON AS POSSIBLE THE GENEVA MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCE" AND ADDED:
"IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCREASINGLY MANIFEST BECOMES A
DISTINCTION BETWEEN THOSE WHO STRIVE FOR A GENUINE PROTECTION
OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLES OF THE AREA AND THOSE
WHO CONTINUE SEEKING TO ATTAIN ONLY THEIR SELFISH GOALS."
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